Amendments to the Claims

1.   (Currently Amended) In a <u>middle-tier</u> server, a computer-implemented method stored as a computer program on a computer readable medium in the <u>middle-tier</u> server and executed by a processor in the <u>middle-tier</u> server for enabling a user at a client device to directly and remotely control a media-based device by way of any one of a plurality of web portals, including a first web portal and a second web portal, while simultaneously accessing related information, wherein the first <u>web portal is a first application hosted by a first web server, and wherein the second portal is a second application hosted by a second web server, the second web server being distinct from the first web server</u> ~~and second web portals are web applications respectively hosted by first and second web servers~~, the method comprising:

implementing in the <u>middle-tier</u> server an Application Program Interface (API) that connects each of the plurality of web portals with at least one database concerning media-based devices, and that fits data retrieved from the at least one database to a format associated with the each of the plurality of web portals;

at the <u>middle-tier</u> server, receiving a first request relating to a first media-based device from a first user at a first client device via the first web portal, the first web portal using a first format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API;

at the <u>middle tier</u> server, receiving a second request relating to a second media-based device from a second user at a second client device via the second web portal, the second web portal using a second format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API, wherein the second format is different from the first format;

in response to the first request, initiating at least one API routine to retrieve from the at least one database the data concerning the first media-based device, while the at least one database is in communication with the first media-based device through a first network; and

in response to the second request, initiating at least one API routine to retrieve from the at least one database the data concerning the second media-based device, while the at least one database is in communication with the second media-based device through a second network.

2.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting to the first user information contained in the retrieved data concerning the first media-based device; and

transmitting to the second user information contained in the retrieved data concerning the second media-based device.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the first request is in HTTP command format.

6.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 2, wherein transmitting to the first user information contained in the retrieved data concerning the first media-based device comprises transmitting the information contained in the retrieved data concerning the first media-

based device in XML format.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data concerning the first media-based device comprises a channel line up corresponding to the first media-based device.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the data concerning the first media-based device further comprises an electronic program guide based on the first media-based device's channel line up within a specified period of time.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the data concerning the first media-based device further comprises a list of shows within the first media-based device's channel lineup corresponding to certain value of at least one specified show attribute.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one specified show attribute concerns show titles.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one specified show attribute concerns actors.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one specified show attribute concerns Motion Picture Association's movie ratings.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least one

specified show attribute concerns show descriptions.

14.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 7, wherein the data concerning the first media-based device comprises values of show attributes of a specified show within the first media-based device's channel lineup.

15.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the data concerning the first media-based device comprises a list of shows recorded by the first media-based device.

16.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the data concerning the first media-based device comprises a list of requests to the first media-based device for recording specified shows.

17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one database includes a box profile database containing a profile of the first media-based device, the box profile database being communicatively coupled with the first media-based device.

19.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one database includes an electronic program guide database.

20.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one

database includes a box transaction database containing information relating to shows recorded or scheduled to be recorded by the first media-based device, and relating to requests to the first media-based device for recording specified shows, the box transaction database being communicatively coupled with the first media-based device.

21-34. (Canceled)

35.   (Currently Amended) In a <u>middle-tier</u> server, a computer-implemented method stored as a program on a computer readable medium in the <u>middle-tier</u> server and executed by a processor in the server for enabling a user to directly and remotely control a media-based device by way of any one of a plurality of web portals, including a first web portal and a second web portal, while simultaneously accessing related information, wherein the first <u>web portal is a first application hosted by a first web server, and wherein the second portal is a second application hosted by a second web server, the second web server being distinct from the first web server</u> ~~and second web portals are web applications respectively hosted by first and second web servers~~, the method comprising:

implementing in the <u>middle-tier</u> server an Application Program Interface (API) that connects each of the plurality of web portals with at least one database concerning media-based devices, and that fits data retrieved from the at least one database to a format associated with the each of the plurality of web portals;

at the <u>middle-tier</u> server, receiving at least one first function call from a first network via the first web portal, the first web portal using a first format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API, and the first network including a first client device for receiving a first

request from a first user;

at the <u>middle-tier</u> server, receiving at least one second function call from the first network via the second web portal, the second web portal using a second format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API, and the first network including a second client device for receiving a second request from a second user;

in response to receiving the at least one first function call, executing at least one API routine to retrieve from the at least one database first data concerning a first media-based device, the at least one database being in communication with the first media-based device through a second network;

in response to receiving the at least one second function call, executing at least one API routine to retrieve from the at least one database second data concerning a second media-based device, the at least one database being in communication with the second media-based device through the second network;

fitting the retrieved first data, via the API, to the first format; and

fitting the retrieved second data, via the API, to the second format, wherein the second format is different from the first format.

36.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 35, further comprising:

transmitting to the first network information contained in the retrieved first data; and

transmitting to the first network information contained in the retrieved second data.

37.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 35, wherein the first network further includes a server for responding to the first request by making the at least one first function call.

38-57. (Canceled)

58.   (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer readable medium having stored thereon software instructions, which when executed by a computing device, causes a <u>middle-tier</u> server to carry out operations, the operations comprising:

implementing in the <u>middle-tier</u> server an Application Program Interface (API) that connects each of a plurality of web portals with at least one database concerning media-based devices, and that fits data retrieved from the at least one database to a format associated with the each of the plurality of web portals;

receiving a first function call through a network via a first web portal, the first web portal using a first format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API;

receiving a second function call through the network via the second web portal, the second web portal using a second format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API, wherein the first <u>web portal is a first application hosted by a first web server, and wherein the second portal is a second application hosted by a second web server, the second web server being distinct from the first web server</u> ~~and second web portals are web applications respectively hosted by first and second web servers~~;

responsive to receiving the first function call, retrieving from the at least one database

first data concerning a first media-based device;

responsive to receiving the second function call, retrieving from the at least one database second data concerning a second media-based device;

fitting the retrieved first data, via the API, to the first format, the retrieved first data providing an integrated presentation of the first media-based device;

fitting the retrieved second data, via the API, to the second format, the retrieved second data providing an integrated presentation of the second media-based device;

transmitting the retrieved first data in the first format to the first web portal via the network; and

transmitting the retrieved second data in the second format to the second web portal via the network.

59.   (Canceled)

60.   (Currently Amended) In a <u>middle-tier</u> server, a computer-implemented method stored as a program on a computer readable medium in a server and executed by a processor in the <u>middle-tier</u> server for enabling a user to directly and remotely control a media-based device from any one of a plurality of web portals, including a first web portal and a second web portal, while simultaneously accessing related information, wherein the first <u>web portal is a first application hosted by a first web server, and wherein the second portal is a second application hosted by a second web server, the second web server being distinct from the first web server</u> ~~and second web portals are web applications respectively hosted by first and second web servers,~~

the method comprising:

implementing in the <u>middle-tier</u> server an Application Program Interface (API) that connects each of the plurality of web portals with at least one database concerning media-based devices, and that fits data retrieved from the at least one database to a format associated with the each of the plurality of web portals;

transmitting to the first web portal using a first format an integrated presentation of a first media-based device from the API, the first web portal using the first format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API;

transmitting to the second web portal using a second format an integrated presentation of a second media-based device from the API, the second web portal using the second format for exchanging data with the at least one database via the API, wherein the second format is different from the first format;

at the <u>middle-tier</u> server, receiving a first instruction from the first web portal to manipulate data concerning the first media-based device;

at the <u>middle-tier</u> server, receiving a second instruction from the second web portal to manipulate data concerning the second media-based device;

in response to the receiving the first instruction to manipulate data, initiating at least one API routine to manipulate in the at least one database first data concerning the first media-based device, the at least one database being in communication with the first media-based device through a network, and

in response to the receiving the second instruction to manipulate data, initiating at least one API routine to manipulate in the at least one database second data concerning the second

media-based device, the at least one database being in communication with the second media-based device through the network.

61.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the first instruction to manipulate data is in HTTP command format.

62.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the first data concerning the media-based device comprises a channel line up corresponding to the first media-based device.

63.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 62, wherein the first data concerning the first media-based device further comprises an electronic program guide based on the first media-based device's channel line up within a specified period of time.

64.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 62, wherein the first data concerning the first media-based device further comprises a list of shows within the first media-based device's channel lineup corresponding to certain value of at least one specified show attribute.

65.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 64, wherein the at least one specified show attribute concerns show titles.

66. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 64, wherein the at least one specified show attribute concerns actors.

67. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 64, wherein the at least one specified show attribute concerns Motion Picture Association's movie ratings.

68. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 64, wherein the at least one specified show attribute concerns show descriptions.

69. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 62, wherein the first data concerning the first media-based device comprises values of show attributes of a specified show within the first media-based device's channel lineup.

70. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the first data concerning the first media-based device comprises a list of shows recorded by the first media-based device.

71. (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the first data concerning the first media-based device comprises a list of shows scheduled to be recorded by the first media-based device.

72.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the first data concerning the first media-based device comprises a list of requests to the first media-based device for recording specified shows.

73.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the at least one database includes a box profile database containing a profile of the first media-based device, the box profile database being communicatively coupled with the first media-based device.

74.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the at least one database includes an electronic program guide database.

75.   (Previously presented)   The method of claim 60, wherein the at least one database includes a box transaction database containing information relating to shows recorded or scheduled to be recorded by the first media-based device, and relating to requests to the first media-based device for recording specified shows, the box transaction database being communicatively coupled with the first media-based device.